

Stanford-Lathrop Memorial Home  
800 N Street  
Sacramento  
Sacramento County  
California

HABS No. CA-1709

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20205

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PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT  
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

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STANFORD-LATHROP MEMORIAL HOME

Sacramento, Sacramento County, California

ADDRESS: 800 N Street (Southeast corner of 8th and N),  
Sacramento, California

OWNER: Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento

OCCUPANT: Sisters of Social Service

USE: Home for Adolescent Girls

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

As a private home, and later as an unofficial mansion for two California governors (Leland Stanford and F. F. Low), this building has been closely associated with a number of important social and political events of the period from 1857 (when it was built) to 1874, when the Stanfords moved to San Francisco. Since 1900, under two different Roman Catholic sisterhoods, it has been a focus for orphan children or problem children as well as an occasional center of civic festivities (as in 1939, at the Sacramento centennial). Architecturally it is one of the most impressive residential buildings to survive from the 19th Century; its various revisions have resulted in a structure which is a cross-section of architectural fashions and yet a unified whole. The reconstitution of the interiors (after 1939), somewhat as they were in the 1870's, as well as the presence of untouched period fittings, make it a rare example of high Victorian taste of the silver age, comparable to the great houses destroyed in the San Francisco earthquake and fire.

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## HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

The original owner and builder of the house was Shelton C. Fogus, a pioneer merchant of Sacramento. Fogus was born in Richmond, Virginia in 1817; he was a veteran of the Mexican war and painted a large scene of the fall of Col. John Hardin at the Battle of Buena Vista (1847), which he later took about the country. In 1856, Fogus bought two lots at the southeast corner of 8th and N streets, in Sacramento, from William Dodd; Fogus then built a small structure on the property at an estimated cost of \$2,000. In 1857, Seth Babson (born 1828 in Maine, died 1907 in California) was commissioned to design a fine house of brick and plaster. This house and property were deeded to Leland Stanford for \$8,000 cash in 1861. (The sale was executed on July 10, but recorded on July 11. The assessor's records indicate the sale of "lots 1 and 2"; see Book 31, p. 78. \$8,000.00 was less than the 1858 assessed valuation of the property. Shelton Fogus left Sacramento in 1862 to seek his fortune in the Comstock; he became a founder of Reno, Nevada, and made and lost two small fortunes in that area.) On September 4, 1861, Leland Stanford became Governor of California, after having once failed in the effort. His inauguration took place on January 10, 1862. Returning from the inaugural ceremonies in a row boat (the winter of 1861-62 saw severe flooding of Sacramento), the Governor found his new house inundated to the level of the parlor windows; some of the furniture was floating in the first floor rooms of the two-story house. (The Stanfords had previously occupied a modest house on 2nd Street, between O and P; Leland had been trained as a lawyer in New York state, but came to California in 1852 and opened a general merchandise store at Cold Springs, near Placerville. He moved to Michigan City, California, until 1855, when he went to Albany to get his wife, Jane Eliza Lathrop.)

In addition to the loss of interior fittings, the flood of 1862 caused severe loss of trees and garden plantings; about three hundred wagon loads of silt and debris were removed, and seven or eight hundred trees, plants and vines were replanted. In 1863, the Stanfords leased their home to F. F. Low (the lease effective December 1, 1863 for a period of four years), the newly elected Governor from December 10, 1863 to December 4, 1867. The lease was apparently modified, for Leland Jr. was born here on May 14, 1868. (He died on March 12, 1884 of typhoid fever, in the Grand Hotel, Florence, Italy.) Various quasi-legendary stories center around Leland Jr.'s first days in the house, such as his being presented as a small baby to assembled guests on a silver salver, etc. Minor changes to the house occurred throughout the 1860's; the major changes took place in 1871-72, when the affluence of the Stanfords indicated more ample entertainment

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facilities. (The assessment of the property after 1872 was \$45,000--a considerable change from the \$8,000 Stanford had paid in 1861.) In February of 1872, a famous reception in honor of Governor Newton Booth, gave the revised house greater social distinction. On February 25, 1873, Mrs. Elizabeth Stanford, Leland Sr.'s mother, died in the house at the age of 82 years and 10 months. By this time, even the glories of the revised house could not hold the Stanfords in provincial Sacramento, and they left in 1874 for the splendors of a more pretentious mansion on Nob Hill (southwest corner of California and Powell) in San Francisco. Mr. Stanford died in 1893, and Mrs. Stanford gave the Sacramento house to Bishop Grace of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento on April 18, 1900--accompanying the gift with an endowment of \$75,000 to make the home into an orphanage. Administered first by the Sisters of Mercy, in 1936 the Stanford-Lathrop Memorial Home passed to the Sisters of Social Service to be used as a home for problem adolescent girls. The Home is open by request at any reasonable hour of the day--depending on the Sisters' schedules.

#### Stanford Home

#### SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS AND SOURCES:

California State Historical Landmark No. 614,

Bagley, Harry P. "Shelton Fogus and the Stanford Home",  
Sacramento Bee, May 23, 1942.

Great Register of Sacramento for 1868.

Kirker, Harold California Architecture in the 19th Century:  
A Social History--a thesis for the University  
of California now published as California's  
Architectural Frontier, Huntington Library, 1960.

Lewis, Oscar Here Lived the Californians, New York, Rinehart,  
1957. See pp. 146-150 (some errors of fact).

Sacramento Union July 12, 1861.

San Francisco Chronicle February 7, 1872.

State Library, Sacramento California Room. Cf. special card  
entries.

Warren, Col. James Lloyd La Fayette California Farmer,  
v. 17, p. 1, July 4, 1862.

Wenzel, Caroline "Finding Facts about the Stanfords in  
California State Library."  
California Historical Society Quarterly,  
XIX, no. 3 (Sept. 1940), pp. 245-255.

Unpublished manuscript notes on old Sacramento.

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## ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

The earliest stages of construction of buildings on the property are not clear, as a structure costing \$2,000 is described as being erected immediately after the purchase of the two lots in 1856 by Shelton Fogus. In 1857-58, Fogus hired Seth Babson to design a brick two-story house. This house had the four square Georgian clarity of plan (central hall, parlors and dining room on the main floor, bedrooms above) of Babson's New England background; even the parapet above the cornice line suggested a house of the northeast coast of about 1800, close to McIntire--as did the shallow classicist porch of the front entrance, with its added overtones of the Greek Revival. The ornamental flavor of the cornices over the windows and the quoins, however, added to these underlying background qualities a strong Italianate aspect--recalling the rows of London houses in the 1850's with their pedimented windows and heavy cornices, but adding a more fanciful Mannerist rather than Renaissance cast to the 16th century Italian sources used in London. Babson's design is extraordinarily old fashioned and sophisticated both for the period and the area. It recalls the Italian Villa of the east and midwest in its intermediate stage--when it had emerged from the medievalizing tendencies of the early Italian Villa (still influenced by the Gothic Revival) into the more mannered Villa of the 1850's. However, the Fogus house had none of the picturesque asymmetric massing of the later Italian Villa, which is most characteristic of this type--and lacked altogether the high tower so often seen on this period's houses. It was distinctly a Georgian block and plan with the fashionable Mannerist ornament of the 1850's, comparable to many commercial buildings in downtown Sacramento (the Leggett-Booth building at 1023 1st Street is of exactly the same date and has the same cornices and fantastic consoles). Babson's obituary in the Architect and Engineer of California, 10:4, August, 1907, describes him as follows: "He was born in Maine, which State he left to settle in Massachusetts and where he remained to the year 1850, at which time he transferred his activities to California, locating at Sacramento where he at once entered into his professional life and where he continued for the succeeding twenty years being intimately associated during that period with the pioneer projectors of the Central Pacific railroad then in the course of construction, and the residences built at Sacramento then the finest in the State by these individuals bear witness to his professional ability and activity, moving later to Alameda where he lived for the past twenty-eight years, continuously practicing his profession up to the time of his death."

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The Sacramento Union of July 12, 1861 described Stanford's purchase of this house and its dependencies: "A two-story brick dwelling house, finished in a costly manner inside and out, with addition of frame building, brick stable, fruit trees, shrubbery, etc., surrounding it." On July 4, 1862, there appeared in the California Farmer a wood engraving by Van Vleck and Keith ("first photographed by Mr. Shireff....who took the same building when the water was 5 feet in the parlor. The figures were touched and finished by Nahl and Brothers"), with a long description of the house by Colonel James Lloyd La Fayette Warren, who had supervised rehabilitation of the grounds after the flood of 1861-62.

"The mansion itself is said to be the most perfect specimen of a residence in the State, the main building is 46 x 40, with a wing in the rear of 20 feet by 31. Another wing, to which is attached the Governor's office is 32 feet by 18. The office of the Governor is finished in reference to convenience of business, yet with taste and neatness. It contains the department for clerks and his private office, the whole complete in itself, easily communicating with his dwelling. The whole design forms a unique and faultless structure.

"The saloons on each side of the hall occupy the whole size of the building, and are lofty and elegant, being 16 feet high. The side centers are ornamented with chaste corinthian columns and caps, with architraves over the doors, these, with rich central ornaments of pure white for the chandeliers, make a fine contrast to the oak-grained woodwork, and give to the whole an elegant appearance. The chambers, also, are the entire size of the buildings, but making four in number are 14 feet high, finished perfectly, with blinds and shades so as to control both heat and light.

"The mansion, to the view, is lofty, having a heavy rich cornice and coping for each window and ornaments under the cornice. The front entrance is furnished with corinthian columns and caps. The outside of the building (being of brick, with extra solid foundations) is finished in block and painted a delicate stone color; cornices and copings a lead color, which presents a soft yet delicate tint. Yet the whole is much more beautiful in its natural view, than any illustrations can make it."

It seems quite possible that the structure here called the Governor's "office" was the \$2,000 building erected after 1856 for Fogus (by Babson?), although it is not mentioned in the Union description of 1861. In any event, there were comparatively few

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modifications after 1862, until 1871, when the entire Fogus house was jacked up a full story to permit more entertainment in the new ground story ballroom, with its hardwood spring floor. The new wing at the south of the Fogus house contained this ballroom and other reception and dining rooms, and bedrooms above. The "office" was raised; the service wing (see Britton and Rey's View of Sacramento of 1870 which gives an excellent picture of the property before Stanford's major revisions), was moved to the south to make room for the entertainment facilities wing. Mansards and mansard windows with scrolled side panels completed the transformation. Although the house window types of the new wing for the entertainment facilities were exactly the same as those of Babson's Fogus house, the mansard windows are alien to his style. He was working on the E. B. Crocker house and Art Gallery after 1869 to 1873, and would seem to have been well occupied with that. The roof types of the Crocker work are very different from those in the revised Fogus-Stanford house; but these mansard revisions on the Stanford house are close to the work of Nathaniel Goodell, who later built the Gallatin house, c. 1877, and designed a house for Mrs. E. B. Crocker with mansard windows exactly like those in the Stanford house. It is possible that it was a collaborative venture, with Babson supervising work relating to his previous design for Fogus, and Goodell adding the mansards. The cornice was modified--with ten ornaments in sunken panels replacing eleven. Fantastic human-faced consoles supported the old cornice. This entire cornice was changed and enlarged to suit the more massive mansard roof. The porch, too, was altered--a larger and more deeply projecting porch with corinthian columns replacing the flat portico of the Fogus house.

To recapitulate the probable changes, one can assume that the illustration of 1862 (California Farmer) is a reasonably accurate picture of the house to about 1871. (The only problem is when the "office" was constructed--is it the early \$2,000 Fogus building or a separate structure erected by Stanford between his election as Governor on September 4, 1861 and the engraving in the California Farmer of July 4, 1862 when the "office" appears clearly in a reproduction?). In 1871, the service wing to the south of the house was moved farther south and joined to a small brick structure originally separated from the service wing. The house, the "office", the service wing were all raised one story; an entirely new section or wing was constructed, connecting the house, "office" and service wing into a single whole. Mansard roofs crowned all parts, except for the small brick building at the south. A group of photographs taken soon after the changes indicate the disposition of service and amenities in the interior of the enlarged house; a ballroom the full

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width of the ground floor at the south; above, on the original ground floor now raised a story, were a large dining room and two parlors over the ballroom; above that additional bedrooms on the next two floors (including the area in the mansard as a floor). In the older block of building (the Fogus house) were the original parlors on the higher first story--two at the east and one double parlor at the west with a central hall between. A splendid new exterior staircase led up to a more imposing porch giving onto the central hall. Below, adjacent to the new ballroom, were billiards, etc. Above were the original bedrooms. A special enclosed porch was added at this time to the service wing's eastern side running along the south side of the house from the service wing; Mrs. Stanford kept birds here. The report in the San Francisco Chronicle for February 7, 1872, confirms the photographic evidence; in this encomiastic description of the reception for Governor Newton Booth (with over 700 guests), one finds the following information:

"It (the Stanford house) contains forty-four rooms, all most elaborately and luxuriously furnished and fitted up. Good taste and cultured imagination have been exhausted in furnishing the establishment. Magnificent and costly furniture in every room; lace curtains of the finest fabric; carpets that receive with noiseless tread the footfall; frescoes beautiful in design and exquisite in artistic perfection adorn the walls and ceiling. Large bouquets of natural flowers are placed in every room, and their fragrance perfumed the air. Added to these are numerous baskets of artificial flowers, pendent from which artificial birds warble the rarest music...The billiard room (actually main floor parlor fitted up with billiard equipment for the occasion) and adjacent apartment in which the supper is served present a most inviting appearance...There is room for 200 guests at a sitting. From the sidewalk to the grand entrance of the mansion is a waterproof canopy...In the parlors (actually one double parlor: Baird) to the right as you enter Mr. and Mrs. Stanford receive their guests...The disciples of Terpsichore soon find where they can worship at their favored shrine...Church and Clark of Sacramento furnish the music. Seven pieces are stationed in the parlors to the left, which connect with a large hall 30 x 86. The parlors are 20 x 50. The second band is stationed on the lower floor in the hall beneath the main upper hall ("supper" room: Baird). This lower hall is also 30 x 86. This gives, according to our hurried mathematics, 6000 feet of space covered with the tireless dancers..."

#### EXTERIOR:

The scored mastic or plaster exterior surface of the brick Fogus house (referred to as "finished in block" in the California Farmer, 1862 description) can be seen faintly today,



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on the older house; the mastic surface of the wing added in 1871-72 was unscored. The house was originally painted a light color ("delicate stone color": California Farmer), with details ("cornices and copings") in lead color. This seems to have been a minimal contrast of tone as old views do not stress the contrast. In the major renovations of 1871-72, the ornamental trim was picked out in a more dramatic contrast of color and the new ground floor had a heavily scored (false rustication) plaster surface; Alfred Eichler's watercolor of the house made in 1948 shows a buff house with gray-brown quoins and trim and a greyed orange mansard roof--watercolor now in the collection of the California Room, State Library. After 1949, the house was painted a uniform color (cream-grey), and the urns were removed at the mansard level. The walls of irregular bond (4" x 8" bricks) are echoed in the brick window cornices with molded mastic ornament above each cornice and molded, mustachioed male faces (portrait head type) as consoles beneath the cornices. The elongated floreate ornaments directly above the double hung windows and under the cornices are of cast iron. Iron is also used for the ornaments in the recessed panels under the mansard roof cornice, with cast iron leaf forms supporting the heavy wooden consoles which punctuate the main cornice line at this level. The capitals of the porch columns are of iron; the rest of the porch and the great, spreading Baroque stair below, as well as many of the main cornice details are of pine, fir, and redwood, with some mastic enrichments. The window sills and the quoins are of granite. Wooden shingles are used on the mansards. Such features as the large standing lamps on the front stair have been removed. Fire escapes have been added. The iron cresting of the 1871-72 mansards had already disappeared by 1903.

#### INTERIOR:

The principal changes to the basement or ground floor since 1900 have been to divide the ballroom into smaller parts, and to partition parts of the front (north) side into rooms for the Sisters. On the main floor, a chapel (designed by Dunbar Beck) has replaced the double parlor to the west, with an altar over the marble fireplace at the south end of the room. An elevator connects the main and upper floors, opening into the south side of the former parlor adjacent to the dining room (now reconstituted as the dining room itself), and the so-called Leland Stanford, Jr. "birthroom". A glass enclosed porch for dining, "bird room", is on the southern side of the old main dining room, "supper room", which now is more like the "hall" described in the Chronicle of 1872. It was not possible for the writer to see the rooms above for study. Since the house was virtually intact from 1874 to 1900, it seems that the gradual dispersal of the contents arose from losses after 1900. Many of these pieces remained in the home, and in 1939 when the house was generally refurbished, certain of them were bought back to furnish

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the two parlors on the east and the "birthroom", as well as the dining group now assembled in the old parlor at the west of the dining area ("supper" room). There is a bookcase with S initials and etched designs of trains, and a pair of gas globes with etched locomotives at each side of the east fireplace in the "supper" room; the valances of the present dining room (gilded and painted wood) have the Stanford initial and the sideboards and silver are of the period. In the easterly parlors, the piano is an original type--as is some of the furniture and the Bierstadt print. Six brick chimneys open off of original Italian marble fireplaces on the main floor, some with period grates and facings of iron. Pier-glasses are original, or of the period. The brass light fixtures on the interior stair's newel post, the brass and wood chandeliers of the halls are all original, although those of the west parlors and some reception areas are modern. The superb etched and cut glass doors at the entrance, the great sliding doors of the space between easterly parlors and "supper" room--both set in fine woods such as rosewood and mahogany--and the excellent walnut banister of the central stair attest to the quality craftsmanship of the period. But there are indications of deceit, typical of Victorian desires for rich surfaces at low cost. The grained oak wood of the hallway doors is painted; the corner cupboards and some of the interior trim are of inexpensive soft woods painted. The handsome contrasting light and dark brown dadoes in the lower halls, the old ballroom and "supper" room are often skillfully applied stain and not rare colored woods. The original softwood and tile (in hall) floors have been replaced with hardwoods, in part, on the main floor (in the halls and "supper" room); elsewhere linoleum and carpeting approximate the "noiseless" surfaces of the 70's for a 20th century institution. The frescoed walls referred to in the 1872 Chronicle description have been painted cream color. Perhaps the finest period object in the entire house, and again symptomatic of Victorian ingenuity in materials is the monumental hat and umbrella stand in the central hall, main floor.

**SITE:**

The house faces north, with main entrance in the center of the old block of building on the west side of the property. The tiled area around the front staircase dates from the renovation of 1871-72. The gardens have some original planting, but redwood slat and grape-stake fencing has helped create the privacy and special play areas necessary for the present use of the house. The wooden paling fence originally around the property has gone.

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The stone sidewalks were first laid in 1891, but later replaced. Garages are an inevitable addition; one at the southeast of the property is modern, the other is converted from a 19th century structure.

Prepared by

*Joseph A. Baird Jr.*

JOSEPH ARMSTRONG BAIRD JR.  
Associate Professor of Art  
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October 1960

APPROVED:

*Charles S. Pope*

Date: *January 12, 1961*

Architect, Historic Structures, Western Office,  
National Park Service

Leland Stanford House (Stanford-Lathrop  
800 N Street Memorial Home)  
Sacramento  
Sacramento County  
California

HABS No. CA-1709

Addendum to  
Stanford-Lathrop Memorial Home

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LELAND STANFORD HOUSE  
(Stanford-Lathrop Memorial Home)  
An addendum to  
Stanford-Lathrop Memorial Home

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Location: 800 N Street (southeast corner of 8th and N streets),  
Sacramento, Sacramento County, California.

UTM Coordinates, Sacramento East Quadrangle:  
16.630960.4270630.

Present Owner: State of California.

Present Occupant: Catholic Education and Welfare Corporation, Sacramento  
Diocese of Roman Catholic Church, Sacramento, California.

Present Use: Administrative headquarters for the Stanford Homes  
Foundation.

Significance: Built in 1857 for Shelton C. Fogus, this house served as the  
residence and executive office of Civil War-era governors  
Leland Stanford and F. F. Low, who helped to keep California  
from seceding and assisted significantly in the Union  
cause. In 1871 the Stanfords expanded the house into the  
fine example of the Second Empire style that it is today.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1857. The tax assessment jumped from \$2,000  
for a wooden frame building, which presumably became the service  
quarters, to \$8,000 for the brick house and carriage house. The  
Renaissance Revival two-story house is readily identifiable in  
various early Sacramento lithographs.

Date of renovation: 1871 (Sacramento Union, September 20, 1871).

2. Architect: Seth Babson (California Architect and Building News,  
December, 1884; Bay of San Francisco, 2 (1892): 139; Architects  
and Engineers of California, August, 1907), who was born in  
Maine in 1828, gained his professional experience in  
Newburyport, Massachusetts, under the tutelage of his father, a  
contractor. Although he came to Sacramento in 1850 he was not  
listed as an architect in the local Directory until 1854. About  
that time he designed the B. F. Hastings house, which he later  
renovated for E. B. Crocker with the addition of an art  
gallery. He designed numerous residences in Sacramento, many of  
which were considered to be the finest in the state. In 1876  
Babson moved to the San Francisco Bay area. He was the sixth  
architect to receive a California State license. He was

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President of the AIA San Francisco Chapter for several years, having been a member from the time of its organization in 1881. He was appointed to the California State Board of Architecture in 1901. He died in Modesto, California, on July 10, 1907.

3. Original and subsequent owners: Lots 1 and 2, 25,600 square feet, are identified as parcel #14, Block #205 (Sacramento County Assessor, Book 6, City of Sacramento, page 20).

1854 Sacramento County map shows Fogus' name in red on these lots, which implies he held an interest in them.

1855 Dated September 17, 1855, recorded in Deeds, Vol. Q, page 95.  
R. F. and Maria Louisa Hall  
to  
Shelton C. Fogus.

1861 Dated July 10, 1861, recorded July 11, 1861, in Deeds 31, page 78. \$8,000.  
Fogus  
to  
Leland Stanford

1900 Dated May 14, 1900, in Deeds 177, page 430.  
Jane L. Stanford  
to  
Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento.

1978 Acquisition by Court Order under the Power of Eminent Domain. Final Order of Condemnation, August 8, 1978, Superior Court of California, No. 269789, Sacramento County Recorder, Book 780815, page 1035.

4. Builders: Contractors for the 1871 renovation were William Turton and William F. Knox (Sacramento Union, September 20, 1871). Professionally identified as Turton & Knox, they were responsible for elevating most of the buildings affected by the new grade levels of Sacramento streets after 1862. Therefore, their firm was equipped and experienced in raising large brick structures. From the news report one assumes Turton & Knox were responsible for all of the Stanford renovation.

Knox was an acknowledged architect and was one of six who submitted plans in 1860 for the State Capitol (Sacramento Union, May 21 and 22, 1860). If Seth Babson were not responsible for the 1871 renovation plans of the Stanford House, it is more probable that the concept was Knox's, rather than Nathaniel Goodell, as suggested by Baird in the 1961 HABS study. There is

no known evidence that Goodell was involved in any capacity in the renovation (Sgromo to Regnery, August 20, 1986).

Turton was born in Manchester, England, in 1827. As a young man he migrated to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Knox was born in Boone County, Virginia, in 1827. Both men crossed the plains in '49 and settled in Sacramento in the early '50s. They were well acquainted and closely associated with Stanford and other executives of the Central Pacific Railroad. Turton & Knox built many of the railroads in Northern California. Their first contract was in 1864 with the Central Pacific, and subsequently they held large contracts with other railroads (Thompson & West, History of Sacramento County, 1880, p. 293).

5. Original plans and construction: No original drawings or plans have been located for the 1857 house. Late 1860s photographs by Alfred Hart, the Central Pacific photographer (Stanford U. Archives) and news reports (Union, July 12, 1861; California Farmer, July 4, 1862) provide detailed descriptions.

The two-story, five-bay square block had a two-story wood-frame service wing of lesser dimensions attached at the southeast rear. A glass-enclosed veranda was tucked in the back (southwest) corner junction of the two units. The shallow, classical entry with overtones of Greek Revival style is retained in the present second-floor portico. There was a parapet around the flat roof of the house. The ornamental hoodmolds over the windows were retained and repeated to decorate additional windows in 1871. Granite quoins were placed at the corner of the massively thick wall construction, said to be of irregular bond, 4" x 8" brick. The exterior was covered with plaster, scored to resemble stone block and painted in stone-like colors. The plan featured a central hall with parlors on the west side, library and dining room on the east side with four bedrooms on the second floor. The original house is still intact in the design of the front facade and in the plan of the second and third floors.

The two-storied, flat-roofed, brick carriage house opens onto the alley. Its primary ornamentation is a dentil brick cornice. The south facade had two bays on the second floor and door(s) on the first, the latter presently covered with corrugated iron. There was one window on the west second-floor level; now an exterior, wooden stairway leads to a converted window-entry. There are small square openings on the north and east facades and a door at ground level on the north.

6. Alterations and additions: While the state government business had to be temporarily carried on in San Francisco after the

flood, in the spring of 1862, a one-story, brick office building was built about mid-way on the east boundary of lot 2. Its exterior appearance was similar to the carriage house, but it had false quoins on the north facade to simulate those of the house. According to lithographs (California Farmer), the office was connected to the service wing by a lattice trellis.

No original drawings or plans have been located of the 1862 office building or 1871 house renovation, but there are photographs taken by Eadweard Muybridge in March 1872, immediately following the renovation completion (Stanford University Archives). In 1871 the house was renovated by extensive construction beginning in September (Sacramento Union, September 20, 1871); it was completed and furnished by February 1872 in time for a gala reception. This caused the tax assessment to soar to \$50,000.

There has been much speculation as to why the house was raised. The street levels at 8th and N streets were never changed, so it was unnecessary to raise the house and office for that reason. It is equally erroneous to propose that the elevation change was to avoid possible future flood damage, because no regard for such possible damage was paid when designing the entirely new ground floor. The floor level is slightly below ground level and the numerous doors and windows are at ground level. The Stanfords were in need of a larger house after the birth of their son and to meet entertainment responsibilities associated with Mr. Stanford's financial success.

The ground floor was designed to function primarily for entertaining and a much larger dining room was inserted into the cross-section of the second floor. From trips to the East Coast the Stanfords would have been aware of the emerging popularity of the Second Empire style and a mansard roof was a means of adding another floor level.

The 1857 brick house and the 1862 brick office were jacked up one full story on site. The wooden-frame service quarters were demolished. An east-west cross section was introduced into the vacated space on the south. The new mid-section abutted the raised office on the east and extended west nearly to 8th Street. A three-story brick service wing was built midway on the rear, extending as far as possible to the south without disturbing the 1857 carriage house. All of the ground-floor level was new construction. A belt course originally was accented by a contrasting color of paint. A bedroom was added above the office, having an attic under a lesser but very decorative mansard roof. A fourth floor sheathed in a mansard roof was added above the 1857 house and the new cross-section.



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The usage of only one room in the 1857 house changed -- the dining room, now on the second floor, was furnished as a "music room." The main portion of the second-floor cross-section was a dining room with a "sitting room" at the west end. The new flight of stairs necessary for access to the fourth floor blocked entry to the southeast bedroom, so its entry was off the new hall. At the time, or perhaps after 1900, the southeast bedroom was divided. Two large bedrooms (one with a large dressing room) occupied the cross-section of the third floor in addition to the new bedroom above the office. The fourth floor had lesser sized bedrooms.

A two-story gallery fitted into the southeast angle of the new cross-section and service wing. The upper gallery off the dining room was enclosed as a sun porch.

Few modifications were made in this century. Although few of them are documented, photographs help to date some of them. Very rarely did the Church obtain building permits. Over the years the roof of the service gallery became an enclosed third-floor room entered through a window of the service quarters. The dressing room off the third-floor west bedroom was converted into an institutional bathroom in 1939. It was probably at this time the middle bedroom, third floor, was divided vertically and the eastern half divided horizontally by inserting another floor into the space.

In 1938 an elevator was installed for \$10,000. The shaft was unobtrusively appended on the rear (south) of the cross section near the southwest junction with the service wing. Windows in the ballroom, west sitting room and west bedrooms were modified to substitute for its entries.

A fire in January 1940 caused the breakage of the skylight and damage to the rear of the fourth floor. The repairs introduced the less costly, more informal fenestration at the rear mansard-roof level. Across the rear, the damaged fish-scale shingles were replaced with regular shingles. At the same time a bathroom was inserted on the fourth floor in the room lighted by the rear, central dormer. At approximately the same time the six ornamental oeil-de-boeuf windows (two on each side) and a chimney at the east end were removed from the east wing attic, common shingles replaced the original fish-scale shingles, and anthemion decorations atop the arch openings of the third-floor east bedroom windows were removed.

In 1956 the entire structure was coated monotone gray (Sacramento Bee, November 23, 1956). In 1971 Sears, Roebuck & Co. attempted to restore its 1871 color appearance as a

promotional venture.

Remodeling occurred on the ground floor the fall of 1959 (City of Sacramento, No. E, Permit D-3249). The ballroom was partitioned. A windowless room, thus created with entry from the billiard room, was used as a staff dining room. The remaining east quarter of the ballroom was divided into three bedrooms and the adjoining cardroom divided into three more rooms for staff (non-religious personnel). The lower gallery facing south was enclosed and divided into bathroom and laundry facilities, eliminating the rear stairs from the office.

At the same time the open gallery on the second floor was enclosed to function as a supplemental kitchen. The substitution for the two exterior stairways was a crudely constructed, wooden stairway to all levels.

More recently, but date unknown, the western half of the ballroom was divided into three rooms.

B. Historical Context:

The nucleus of the Leland Stanford house was built in 1857 for Shelton C. Fogus. He had been born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1817. After serving in the American-Mexican War, he lived in St. Louis as an artist of some talent (Sacramento Bee, May 23, 1942). In the 1849 Gold Rush he traveled with four companions overland to California. Fogus quickly became a successful merchant in Sacramento, surviving disastrous fires and floods. He also invested in transportation enterprises, ranching and livestock raising. He dabbled in local politics and was one of the organizers of the Republican Party in Sacramento. Some account for his leasing the house in 1859 and selling it in 1861 to the fact that his wife lost her mind and he placed her in an insane asylum. He remarried in 1862, tried his luck in the Washoe & Comstock mining excitement and helped to create a town, to be known as Reno, Nevada, where he died in 1889.

The house was purchased in July 1861 by Leland Stanford shortly after he returned to California. Within days after his June arrival he was nominated by the Republican Party as candidate for Governor. A week later it was announced that he was President of the new Central Pacific Railroad Co.

California politics were dominated by pro-Southern Democrats. There were dire threats that the State would secede. In September Stanford was elected. During his term the Legislature voted to extend the term to four years, so he was the last Governor to fill a two-year term. On the day of his inauguration, January 10, Sacramento was severely flooded. Water rose to a depth of four to five feet at the

house site by the afternoon. State business adjourned to San Francisco. Before his return Stanford had built a one-story, two-room office building to the east of the house (now incorporated as the east wing of the second floor), which served as the Executive Office of the Governor for the next six years.

Stanford was so occupied with Central Pacific business that he declined to run for Governor a second term. Frederick F. Low, a union candidate, was elected and the Stanfords allowed Low and his family to occupy the mansion and office until the end of Low's term, December 1867. Low continued to hold the Union reins securely throughout the rest of the war and the beginning of reconstruction. Low, who was unique for his defense of minorities and opposition to discrimination, was subsequently an excellent choice to be U.S. Ambassador to China, serving with distinction.

The Stanfords' only son was born in the house on May 14, 1868. It was his death in 1884 which caused the Stanfords to establish Stanford University. In 1885 Leland Stanford was elected U.S. Senator, serving until his death in 1893. In addition to his role in politics, railroads and education, Stanford was a pioneer venture capitalist, active in agriculture, especially viticulture and stock raising.

## PART II. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: None is known to exist. If any were left with the house in 1900, they could possibly still be in the archives of the Diocese or the house.

- B. Early Views:

Stanford University Archives has Alfred Hart's stereographs and Eadweard Muybridge's glass negatives. There is an effort to accumulate in the Archives copies of photographs and lithographs relating to the house.

Some Hart photographs, which were sold by Lawrence & Hosworth, are in the archives of the California Society of Pioneers.

During 1986 the State of California, Department of Parks & Recreation, collected photographs to support its structural history report. These include many twentieth-century photographs taken by the State which were not available to Stanford University.

- C. Primary and Unpublished Sources:

Deeds in Sacramento County Recorder's and Clerk's offices, Sacramento County Courthouse, Sacramento, California.

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A Daybook kept by the Sisters throughout this century, which could reveal much data, could not be found.

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There are numerous newspaper reports with reference to the Stanford House but the most extensive, daily coverage is in the Sacramento Bee and Sacramento Union.

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Historian  
February 1987

ADDENDUM TO  
LELAND STANFORD HOUSE  
(Stanford-Lathrop Memorial Home)  
800 N Street  
Sacramento  
Sacramento County  
California

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